

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because it is unclear whether the term that appears at least twice as, “a resilient member: in claim 6/1 refers to the same or different things.

Claim 6 has been canceled to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kallin et al. (USP 4,729,311). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the output member 66 corresponds to the “rotatable cam” and the spring 78 corresponds to the “resilient member” of the present invention.

As shown in Fig. 2, a first end of the spring 78 is connected to a peripheral portion of the output member 66, and a second end of the spring 78 is connected to a post 80.

Kallin states, in col. 3, line 66 - col. 4, line 4:

The spring 78 is used to accelerate the output member 66 of the clutch 48 from the stopped position shown in Fig. 4 to a position at which the control surface 82 engages the input member 64 to cause the second cam section 66-2 and the output member 66 to be rotated at a control rate of speed or rotation in the counter-clockwise direction shown.

Kallin shows, in Fig.4, a relationship between the control surface 82 of the second cam section 66-2 (a part of the output member 66) and the input member 64. Fig. 4 clearly shows that a radius of the second cam section 66-2 is longer than a distance between a rotational axis of the second cam section 66-2 and a flat area 72. Therefore, when the second cam section 66-2 is rotated in the counter-clockwise direction by the spring 78, the rotation stops when an end of the control surface 82 engages a peripheral surface of the input member 64 (corresponds to the "home position" of the present invention). At the time when the rotation of the second cam section 66-2 stops (i.e., the output member 66 is at the home position), a distance between a position at which the spring 78 is connected to the second cam section 66-2 and a position at which the spring 78 is connected to the post 80 is not the shortest.

Therefore, Kallin fails to disclose or suggest the "home position setting device," as recited in claim 1.

This feature of the present invention is disclosed in Fig. 1C of the present application.

Claims 3-6, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

For the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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